

**Evidence Analysis Library: Adult Nutrition Screening
Validity and Reliability Criteria**

What is the validity and reliability of nutrition screening tools for identifying malnutrition risk in adults across care settings, acute and chronic medical conditions, and ages?

Table 1. Cut points for interpreting data of adult malnutrition screening tools

Criteria for Individual Study Results	Overall Classification for Each Tool
Validity Results	
Se, Sp, PPV, NPV^a	Overall Degree of Se, Sp, PPV, NPV
90 to 100%, <i>Excellent</i>	High
80 to 90%, <i>Good</i>	Moderate
70 to 80%, <i>Fair</i>	Low
60 to 70%, <i>Insufficient</i>	Low
50 to 60%, <i>Poor</i>	Low
Reliability and Agreement Results	
Kappa Value^b	Overall Level of Agreement and Reliability
Above 0.90, <i>Almost Perfect</i>	High
0.80 to 0.90, <i>Strong</i>	High
0.60 to 0.79, <i>Moderate</i>	Moderate
0.40 to 0.59, <i>Weak</i>	Low
0.21 to 0.39, <i>Minimal</i>	Low
0 to 0.20, <i>None</i>	Low

Abbreviations: Se=sensitivity, Sp=Specificity, PPV=Positive predictive value, NPV=Negative predictive value

^aCriteria were set based on Neelemaat F, Meijers J, Kruijenga H, van Ballegooijen H, van Bokhorst-de van der Schueren M. Comparison of five malnutrition screening tools in one hospital inpatient sample. *Journal of clinical nursing*. 2011; 20 (15-16): 2,144-2,152. PMID: 21535274.

^bCriteria were set based on McHugh ML. Interrater reliability: the kappa statistic. *Biochemia medica*. 2012; 22(3): 276-282. PMID: 23092060.